

Message Text

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FOR RUTH DEHAAN, OES/OFA/MST

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SUBJ: INDONESIAN MARINE SCIENCE POLICIES

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1. SUMMARY. THERE IS NO EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF INDONESIAN MARINE SCIENCE POLICY, ALTHOUGH POLICYMAKERS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEIR PRIORITIES ARE: (A) ASSESSMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES; (B) APPLICATIONS TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND (C) TRAINING OF NECESSARY PERSONNEL. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN MARINE RELATED RESEARCH, AND COORDINATION IS HAPHAZARD. LACK OF TRAINED PERSONNEL IS A DISTINCT AND LONG-TERM PROBLEM. INDONESIA PARTICIPATES IN A NUMBER OF MULTILATERAL RESEARCH EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

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2. AS FAR AS MISSION IS AWARE THERE IS NO EXPLICIT GOI STATEMENT OF MARINE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY SUCH AS A FIVE-YEAR PLAN. GOI OCEANOGRAPHY/SCIENCE OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED THAT PRIORITIES ARE: (A) ASSESSMENT OF INDO-NESEAN AQUATIC RESOURCES; (B) APPLICATIONS OF MARINE SCIENCE RESEARCH TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND (C) TRAINING OF NECESSARY PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL IN MARINE SCIENCE.

3. A NUMBER OF GOI INSTITUTIONS ARE ENGAGED IN MARINE RESEARCH. THE MOST IMPORTANT ARE: (A) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY; (B) GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (INCIPIENT STAGES); (C) NAVY HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY; (D) DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR FISHERIES; AND (E) INSTITUTE FOR MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH. IN ADDITION, VARIOUS PROVINCIAL FISHERIES SERVICES ARE ENGAGED IN THEIR OWN PROGRAMS OF RESEARCH, THERE IS SOME RESEARCH CARRIED ON BY INDONESIAN UNIVERSITIES, AND PRIVATE FIRMS ARE CARRYING ON MARINE GEOLOGICAL STUDIES/ MINERAL EXPLORATION. COORDINATION OF THESE EFFORTS IS HAPHAZARD, AND THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AREAS FOR POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTERESTS (E.G. DEVELOPMENT OF MANGROVE AREAS AS WOOD (CHARCOAL) RESOURCE VS. CONTROL AS AN ECOLOGICAL FACTOR IN FISHERIES AND FOR PREVENTION OF COASTAL EROSION.) AS YET NO CLEAR POLICY HAS EMERGED, BUT THERE IS TENDENCY TOWARD INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, AND NAVY HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY AS KEY INSTITUTIONS IN FUTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

4. CURRENTLY, THERE IS ON-GOING RESEARCH IN FISHERIES, MARINE MINERALS, COASTAL ZONE, AND OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION, BUT BECAUSE OF A TENDENCY TO PUBLISH INFORMALLY (I.E. CIRCULATING TYPED COPIES OF REPORTS AT MEETINGS OR MIMEOGRAPHING REPORTS) IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS PER SE. AMONG THE THINGS WE DO KNOW ARE: 30 PERCENT OF INDONESIAN OIL IS PRODUCED FROM OFFSHORE WELLS, AND FOREIGN COMPANIES DEPOSIT THEIR GEO-PHYSICAL AND GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION DATA WITH THE GOI WHICH TREATS SUCH DATA AS CONFIDENTIAL; GOI-OWNED TIN MINING COMPANY WITH UNDP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS ENGAGED IN EXPANDED TIN EXPLORATION PROGRAM (MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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INDONESIAN TIN PRODUCTION IS ALREADY FROM OFFSHORE DEPOSITS) AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IS KNOWN TO BE INVESTIGATING UNDER-WATER PHOSPHORITE DEPOSITS.

5. THERE IS A CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF TRAINED PERSONNEL IN MARINE SCIENCE FIELD, BOTH IN PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PROFESSIONAL RANKS. AGENCIES CONCERNED ARE ATTEMPTING TO UPGRADE THE CALIBRE OF THEIR PERSONNEL THROUGH IN-SERVICE

TRAINING (INCLUDING OVERSEAS TRAINING), AND TO HIRE NEW UNIVERSITY GRADUATES. INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY, FOR EXAMPLE, ENVISIONS QUADRUPLING ITS STAFF FROM PRESENT THIRTY (INCLUDING 10 PH.DS) TO 120 (INCLUDING 40 PH.DS) BY 1984. HOWEVER, PRODUCTION OF TRAINED NATURAL SCIENTISTS BY INDONESIAN UNIVERSITIES IS LOW, AND IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT INSTITUTE CAN MEET THESE GOALS. ALSO, BECAUSE OF ATTRACTION OF APPARENT IMMEDIATE RETURNS FROM APPLIED STUDIES, THERE IS INSUFFICIENT WEIGHT ON FUNDAMENTAL TRAINING IN BASIC SCIENCES. A NUMBER OF INDONESIAN UNIVERSITIES ARE REPORTEDLY CURRENTLY COOPERATING OR DISCUSSING COOPERATION IN MARINE SCIENCE WITH UNIVERSITIES IN UK, FRANCE, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, AND THE US. LACK OF TRAINED PERSONNEL IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN A PROBLEM FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

6. IN THE AREA OF MULTILATERAL/REGIONAL COOPERATION INDONESIA IS KNOWN TO BE PARTICIPATING IN A NUMBER OF MULTILATERAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PROJECTS WHICH ALSO INCLUDE US INSTITUTIONS. INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, AND SINGAPORE HAVE UNDERTAKEN CHARTING AND POLLUTION STUDIES WITH REGARD TO THE STRAIT OF MALACCA. IN GENERAL, IT IS EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION THAT INDONESIA IS RESPONSIVE TO SUGGESTIONS OF MULTILATERAL OR BILATERAL COOPERATION IN MARINE SCIENCE RESEARCH WHEN SUCH RESEARCH IS NOT PERCEIVED OF AS HAVING ANY SECURITY OR FOREIGN COMMERCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

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